

MATT WAGNER

DYNAMITE 5

THE Shadow

YEAR ONE



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MATT WAGNER
WILFREDO TORRES



THE Shadow

YEAR ONE

SAMNEZ-13
MW

MATT WAGNER

DYNAMITE 

THE *Shadow*

YEAR ONE




VOTRYBY

THE *Shadow*[®]

YEAR ONE

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SEE THE LAST PAGE FOR ALL VARIANT COVERS

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BANG

MY ROLE AS HIS "FRIEND AND COMPANION" WAS, TO SAY THE LEAST, *MUCH* DIFFERENT THAN THAT TO WHICH I WAS ACCUSTOMED.

BUT THEN...
HE WAS UNLIKE ANY MAN I'D EVER MET.

BANG



EXCELLENT,
MISS LANE.

AND EVEN
AT A DOZEN FEET—THE
WEAPON'S MAXIMUM
RANGE.

YES, I GREW
UP SHOOTING
SKEET WITH
MY FATHER.

AND IN THE
INTERVENING YEARS,
WELL... A GIRL'S GOT
TO LEARN HOW TO
DEFEND HERSELF.

STILL, IN
MORE WAYS
THAN ONE... I
LONGED FOR
SOMETHING
MORE.







RUB ONE
FINGER IN EACH
MIXTURE...YOUR
GLOVED HAND,
PLEASE.

NOW...
SNAP YOUR
FINGERS!



MY GOD!
WHAT WAS--?
WHY DIDN'T YOU
WARN ME?!

FLASH POWDER.
I WANTED YOU TO
EXPERIENCE ITS
EFFECTIVENESS.



DULY
NOTED.

BUT...WHEN
DO I **START**?
WHAT'S MY
FIRST--?

YOUR ASSIGNMENTS
WILL ARISE AS I HAVE **NEED**
OF YOU, MISS LANE.

UNTIL THEN,
I SUGGEST YOU
READY YOURSELF
FOR THE RIGORS
THAT AWAIT.

"ENNIO, MY FRIEND...HOW SAD
THAT WE HAVE TO MEET LIKE THIS."



BACKROOMS
AND BODYGUARDS
ARE **NOT** FOR THE
LIKES US, EH?

CARLO...CARLO
INDEED, THESE
ARE SAD DAYS
FOR DECENT MEN
OF BUSINESS.



IT'S HARD TO KNOW **WHO**
YOU CAN TRUST AND WHO TO
AVOID LIKE A SNAKE. I WAS
HAPPY...AND SURPRISED...
WHEN YOU REQUESTED
THIS MEETING.

THE **LUPPINOS**
AND THE **BIANCHIS**...
WE HAVE COOPERATED
PEACEFULLY
FOR YEARS!

THESE SEEDS
OF MISTRUST...THEY
ARE SPREAD LIKE
FILTH FROM THAT
MAD DOG IN OUR
MIDST. THIS **CHAOS**
AIN'T...**ISN'T** THE
PROPER ORDER
OF THINGS!



MASSARETTI...
THAT **FICA!** IF I
GET MY HANDS
ON HIM...

I'LL MAKE HIM
WATCH AS I **VIOLATE** HIS
WIFE AND HIS DAUGHTERS!
THEN I'LL **CUT OUT THEIR**
HEARTS AND STUFF THEM
DOWN HIS GODDAMN
THROAT... **PIECE BY**
BLOODY PIECE!



HE'S, UH...
NOT MARRIED,
ENNO. NO KIDS
EITHER...

MY FRIEND, I
SHARE YOUR LOATHING
OF THAT SENSELESS
WARMONGER. MAY HE
DROP DEAD THIS VERY
NIGHT!

WELL,
STILL...IF HE
WAS--!



STILL, I'M CONCERNED
WITH THE EFFECTS OF THIS
WAR IN A MORE
PRACTICAL SENSE.

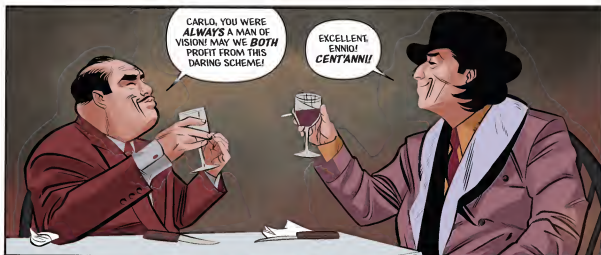
WE **BOTH** NEED
SOME MANNER IN WHICH
TO **SUPPLEMENT** THE
REVENUE STREAM THAT'S
BEEN DISRUPTED BY THIS
SON-OF-A-WHORE.



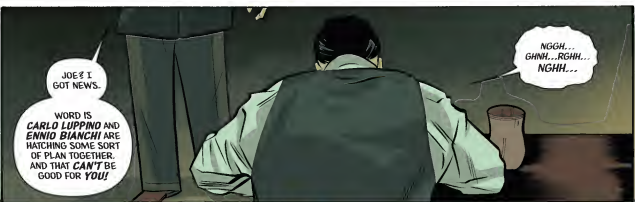
MARONE!
FROM YOUR LIPS
TO GOD'S EARS.
AMICI!

MOST OF MY
SPEAKS STAND ALL-BUT
HALF EMPTY! EVEN MY
WHOREHOUSES AREN'T
PULLING DOWN THEIR
NORMAL TAKE!











DESPITE ALL THE PROMISES OF INTRIGUE AND CAUTIONS OF DANGER...HE SEEMED LOATH TO ACTUALLY EMPLOY ME IN THE FIELD.

ONCE AGAIN, I FOUND MYSELF...A KEPT WOMAN.

YOU KNOW, IF I WANTED TO BE A HOUSEBOUND WALLFLOWER...I COULD HAVE ACHIEVED **THAT** STUNNING FEAT ALL ON MY OWN.

WITHOUT ALL THE TARGET PRACTICE, SECRET GADGETS AND VOWS OF FEALTY.

I TOLD YOU...HE'S **NOT** MY "FRIEND."

AND YET **YOU** SEEM TO FIND CAUSE TO BE GONE ALL NIGHT...**EVERY** NIGHT!

I AM NOT YOUR COMRADE, MISS LANE. I AM YOUR **COMMANDER**. I COME AND GO AS NEEDS BE.

I'M AFRAID YOUR SENSE OF ANXIETY CAN'T BE HELPED, MISS LANE. I HAVE NO NEED OF YOUR SERVICES AS OF YET.

YOUR FRIEND MASSARETTI'S UNPROVOKED ATTACKS HAVE DRIVEN HIM INTO HIDING FOR FEAR OF REPRISAL FROM THE OTHER MOBS.





SUFFICE IT TO SAY, A SITUATION HAS ARISEN THAT DEMANDS MY **DIRECT** ATTENTION THIS EVENING...*WITHOUT* THE BENEFIT OF YOUR AID.



BUT... PERHAPS I COULD HELP YOU **FIND** MY, Y'KNOW... **FRIEND.**

FOR NOW, I REQUIRE THAT YOU SIT TIGHT AND AWAIT MY FURTHER CONTACT. THAT IS **ALL.**



HE WAS USED TO DEALING WITH SOLDIERS OR SYCOPHANTS, THOSE SUBJECTED TO HIS STEELY WILL.

"SIT TIGHT," EH?



I DON'T **THINK** SO!

FOR BETTER OR WORSE...I WAS **NEITHER!**



"BUT I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND...HOW COULD THEY ALL BE **BROTHERS** WHEN ONE GUY TALKS LIKE AN OFF-THE-BOAT **GUINEA?**"



CUZ IT'S JUST AN **ACT!** HE'S NOT **REALLY** ITALIAN.

HAW! NO WAY! NEXT, YOU'LL BE TELLIN' ME GROUCHO DOESN'T **REALLY** HAVE A MUSTACHE!

SAAY... I WONDER IF THAT MEANS THE CURLY-HAIRED ONE **REALLY CAN** TALK?



—SIGH—
CHARLEY...YOU'RE A REAL PIECE O' WORK. I DON'T—

WHAT THE HELL--?!

HOLY CRAP!



SURPRISE, SURPRISE, BOYOS!



MOTHER
O' CHRIST!
IT'S HIM!

THE FOUL REEK OF
CRIME IS LURE TO THE WICKED
AND THE DEPRAVED...BUT THE
WAGES OF **MURDER** BRING
ONLY **DEATH!**

WHAT TH--?!
WHO THE HELL
IS THAT?!

NOSY PRICK!
MIND YER OWN
BIZNESS!

YEAH...
CHOKE
ON THIS!

BADDA B
BADDA B
BADDA B

THE
SHADOW
KNOWS!

JESUS!
WHERE IS
HE?!

BANG
BANG
BANG

BANG
BANG
BANG





THE CREATURE I
BEHELD WAS LIKE
SOMETHING OUT
OF A DREAM.

BLACK AS THE
NIGHT ITSELF.
UNDAUNTED BY
ANY THREAT.

BUT I *HAD*
TO SEE. I *HAD*
TO KNOW.

FAR MORE
FRIGHTENING THAN
THAT MASKED
ROGUE WHO'D
SAVED ME ON THE
ROOFTOP.

HIS LAUGHTER
ECHOED WITH
CONTEMPT FOR
HIS ENEMIES.

THIS, I REALIZED,
WAS HIS TRUE SELF...
THE *SHADOW!*











SLEEP--THE
BALM THAT SOOTHES
EVERY WOE...YET
THE WOMB OF EVERY
NIGHTMARE.

MARGO...
TIME TO RISE...



LAMONT!
I...WHERE--?!

YOU'RE SAFE
AT HOME...AND
LUCKY TO
BE ALIVE!

THAT WAS A
FOOLISH MANEUVER...
FOLLOWING ME INTO THE
FIELD OF BATTLE.



MORE
IMPORTANTLY...*HOW*
WERE YOU ABLE TO
FOLLOW ME?

VIA YOUR
OWN ADVICE...
"SUBTERFUGE!"

IT WASN'T SO HARD TO
TRAIL YOUR LIMO...STICKS
OUT LIKE A SORE THUMB,
EVEN IF IT *IS* BLACK!



YOU NEED SOMETHING
MORE UBIQUITOUS
...SOMETHING THAT
BLENDS IN--LIKE
A TAXI CAB!

THAT'S WHAT
I TOOK...AND
YOU NEVER EVEN
NOTICED.



to be continued

DYNAMITE®

IN THE NEWS - AUGUST 2013

ACCLAIMED WRITER STEVE NILES TO TURN NEW ASH AND THE ARMY OF DARKNESS ONGOING SERIES INTO THE ULTIMATE EXPERIENCE IN MEDIEVAL



Dynamite is proud to announce that their flagship comic book title, *Army of Darkness*, will receive a complete overhaul and a new ongoing series as imagined by Steve Niles, acclaimed author of *30 Days of Night* and *Batman: Gotham County Line*. A horror action series with dark comedic overtones, the newly-titled *Ash and the Army of Darkness* continues the time-traveling, demon-fighting adventures of Ash Williams, the smart-mouthed hero of the 1992 cult-favorite film of the same name.

"What I'm doing with *Ash and the Army of Darkness* is a complete reboot," says Niles. "We start and the last frame of the film and then go right to the next. It's a wild ride and I think fans of the film will be very happy because I am bringing back a lot of what made the movie so fun. My run of *Ash and the Army of Darkness* takes place almost entirely in the 1300's setting. That was what made *Army of Darkness* stand apart. I'm hoping readers agree."

Comic book writer and novelist Steve Niles

is credited as being an instrumental force in bringing horror comics back to prominence in recent years. Perhaps his best-known work is *30 Days of Night*, a best-selling vampire series co-created with innovative illustrator Ben Templesmith and adapted into a feature film. His impressive list of credits include such licensed and creator-owned tales of terror as *I Am Legend*, *Hellspawn*, *Chin Music*, *Simon Dark*, *The X-Files*, *Remains*, *Criminal Macabre*, and *28 Days Later*.

"I'm very excited to be working with Dynamite and thrilled to be working on *Ash and the Army of Darkness*," adds Niles. "The film is one of my favorites and I think we have a really fresh, exciting take for *Ash's* continuing adventures fighting the dead. Dynamite has been expanding their line and have an impressive array of comic creators working with them now. I'm looking forward to joining the team."

Placing Steve Niles on *Ash and the Army of Darkness* follows Dynamite's recent trend of reinventing their established classics, thanks in no small part to partnering established industry writers with projects that naturally fit their narrative strengths. To name just a few of their recent publishing moves: the talented Gail Simone (*Birds of Prey*, *Batgirl*) launched a new incarnation of *Red Sonja*, the sci-fi team of Dan Abnett and Andy Lanning (*Guardians of the Galaxy*) have retold the classic *Battlestar Galactica*, and superhero legend Mark Waid (*Daredevil*, *Kingdom Come*) brought *The Green Hornet* back to basics. These projects have met with critical acclaim and high sales, and the new *Ash and the Army of Darkness* promises to continue the trend.

"I am really excited to welcome Steve Niles on-board for the *Ash and the Army of Darkness* relaunch," says Nick Barrucci, CEO and Publisher of Dynamite. "There's no writer in recent years whose name has been attached to more bestselling horror comic concepts than Steve, and for good reason -- he's got an amazing talent for writing hard-hitting, white-knuckle, edge-of-your-seat fright fiction. *Army of Darkness* has a legion of hardcore fans, and they deserve the best. Well, they're getting the best, courtesy of Steve Niles!" Dynamite expects longtime fans and curious newcomers to welcome a new creative voice, story direction, title, and logo for a horror classic with *Ash and the Army of Darkness*.

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NEXT ISSUE:



ISSUE #6

In the aftermath of a daring armored-car hijacking, Police Inspector Cardona first hears rumors of a mysterious, black clad vigilante whose merciless vendetta is accompanied by a spine-chilling laugh. Despite his most ferocious attempts, The Shadow is frustrated by his continual inability to locate mob boss, Big Gun Massaretti. Equally aggravated by his arrogant inability to value her input, The Shadow's fledgling agent, Margot Lane, endeavors to locate her former paramour on her own. This hit series continues, for the first time ever, to unveil The Shadow's deepest secrets as imagined by Eisner Award-winning author, Matt Wagner.

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FEATURED REVIEWS

RED SONJA #1

(Newsarama)

"A strong and promising debut... (Gail Simone)'s skill at combining the brutal with the humorous will go a long way in maintaining the correct tone for Sonja."

RED SONJA #1

(Comic Book Bin)

"(Simone)'s Red Sonja is fiery and aggressive, not icy and reserved... Simone's presentation of the character makes this book worth a look."

RED SONJA #1

(Comic Vine)

"5 stars out of 5. I can't wait to see what Simone has planned for future issues."

RED SONJA #1

(Geeks of Doom)

"This is a fantastic comic, plain and simple."

UNCANNY #1

(Comic Book Resources)

"Diggle and Campbell create real, enjoyable suspense... on the strength of their ability to keep the action tight and vivid."

UNCANNY #1

(Comic Book Revolution)

"From the opening page, *UNCANNY #1* was able to grab my attention and left a strong impression by the time I finished reading the issue. Andy Diggle was able to create a fascinating world around the lead character."

THE OWL #1

(Graham Cracker Comics)

"Butt-kicking action... This is a wonderful revamping and makes the now elderly fan boy in me giggle with delight!"

THE OWL #1

(Comic Book Therapy)

"The Owl is a worthy entry in Dynamite's ever expanding world of new pulp stories."

THE SHADOW / GREEN HORNET: DARK NIGHTS #1

(Lethal Race)

"I loved this. This was my favorite book of the week, and I'm very excited for the next one. I'm betting I'm going to wish this went on past five issues."

THE SHADOW / GREEN HORNET: DARK NIGHTS #1

(Unleash The Fanboy)

"Michael Uslan... writes a solid Shadow, one whom is always getting down to business and giving the hard truth without worry of hurting peoples' feeling."